Let's Go Better: Food Access

October, 2021
Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin interpretation is available for this meeting. Please select your preferred language option at the bottom of the screen by clicking on the globe symbol.

**NOTE: EVERYONE MUST SELECT A LANGUAGE**
Zoom Meeting Guidance

- During the presentation, all microphones will be muted
- If you are experiencing technical issue or have a questions about something in the presentation, please let us know using the chat

- You can also let us know if you’re having an issue or ask a question by “raising your hand”. Click on “Reactions” then “Raise Your Hand” in the pop-up window.
Reminder

• Please keep your mics muted.

• We will be recording this meeting, so if you do not want your face to be recorded feel free to turn off the camera.

• If you have questions please use the chat.
Our agenda today

- Background information
- Office of food access updates
- Discussion and shaping of four main recommendations
- Open comments
Food Access Plan to Recover - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 2021-2024

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is an economic stimulus bill signed by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021 to speed up the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession.

Our goal for today: Discuss and further shape four actionable food access funding recommendations highlighted by the CBOs to be presented to the Mayor’s Office and the Equitable Recovery Taskforce.

Our Road map: Mayor’s Food Access Agenda 2021

Our guiding principles: Dignity, Agency, and Equity.

Our Philosophy: Transparency and inclusivity

Our timeline:

- **Sep 13th:** CBO’s Meeting
- **End September:** Gather feedback from CBOs, plan agenda and outreach strategy for the community meetings in October.
- **Week October 18:** two open community meetings hosted in different languages
- **October 29:** Finalize the report with the suggestions compiled through the community meetings.
Food Access Emergency & Recovery Investments Updates

**Emergency Investment: ~$27 million**
- Youth Meal Sites (City): $300,000
- Adults Meal Sites (CARES Act): $500,000
- Emergency Feeding program: (CARES Act): $5 million
- Food Access Local Supply (CARES Act): 1.3 million
- Boston Resiliency Fund: $19.88 million
- Miscellaneous: staff capacity, outreach, support, transportation (OFA): $250,000
- Farmers Market Coupons (CARES Act): Over $650

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Recovery Investments: $2.5 million**
- $2.2 million in grant funding to 39 local, non-profit organizations through the Food Sovereignty and Community Grants programs.
  - 95% POC/Other Minority Led
  - 57% Women Led
- $300,000 will be used for:
  - Food resources ChatBot: Connect residents with safety net and emergency programs.
  - Food Donation platform: Connect with surplus food and reduce waste
  - Citywide outreach & education campaign
Four recommendations we want to shape with you and would like to get feedback on

- Community Kitchens
- Food hubs
- Food + nutrition classes
- Affordable and healthy stores
What are we doing?

For each recommendation we will go through 3 steps
1. High-level explanation
2. Polling questions
3. Short open discussion (6 mins) - 1 min per person
RECOMMENDATION 1:
COMMUNITY KITCHENS

Community kitchens are **places** where community members can **share cooking resources** (possibly including ingredients), **tools and physical space** to either create their own business, partner with others to create a business, or cook their own food.
POLL INSTRUCTIONS

Computer

Mobile devices
POLL INSTRUCTIONS
POLL QUESTIONS

Should the City of Boston invest American Rescue Plan funds to create community kitchens?

- Yes
- No

Where should community kitchens be located?

- Existing underutilized kitchens
- In a location of their own
- Commissary kitchens
- Restaurants
OPEN DISCUSSION
Please either unmute yourself or raise your hand.

Each person has 1-minute
RECOMMENDATION 2:
COMMUNITY FOOD HUBS

Food hubs are **welcoming places** where people could grow, cook, share, and find **several food resources**, **ALL under one same roof**. Programming and services available are decided by the community.
POLL QUESTIONS

Should the City of Boston invest American Rescue Plan funds to create neighborhood food hubs?
  - Yes
  - No

What type of programming or services you think the neighborhood food hubs should have:
  - SNAP + WIC, and other safety net programs sign ups
  - Food Pantry
  - Community kitchen
  - Shared cooking areas
  - Community food resources liaisons
  - Farmers markets
  - Cooking/food access classes
  - Healthy + affordable store
  - Food resources outreach
  - Community fridges
  - Farming classes
  - Job fairs
  - Healthcare services
  - Community gardens
  - Community meetings
OPEN DISCUSSION
Please either unmute yourself or raise your hand.

Each person has 1-minute
RECOMMENDATION 3:

**FOOD & NUTRITION CLASSES**

We’ve heard that Boston residents are interested in more **FREE food & nutrition classes**. We have some ideas of what these classes could be but would love to have feedback from all of you. Some ideas:

- How to cook local vegetables and fruits
- How to shop on a budget using SNAP
- How to store already prepared meals
- How to best preserve fruits and vegetables
- How to pickle or preserve produce for later use
- How to use the Healthy Incentive Program at farmers markets
- Learning about other cultures through food
- Nutrition classes
POLL QUESTIONS

Should the City of Boston invest ARP funds to host food access classes?
- Yes
- No

Which of the following classes would you like to see offered? Please choose all that apply.
- How to cook local vegetables and fruits
- How to shop on a budget using SNAP
- How to store already prepared meals
- How to best preserve fruits and vegetables
- How to pickle or preserve produce for later use
- How to maximize and make use of safety net programs (HIP, SNAP, WIC)
- Learning about other cultures through food

Where would you like to see these classes hosted? Please choose all that apply.
- Community based organizations
- Food pantries
- Health Centers
- Boston Public Libraries
- Community centers
- Farmers Markets
- Community Gardens + Public Parks
- Neighborhood food hubs
- Community kitchens
- Corner stores, bodegas or grocery stores
OPEN DISCUSSION
Please either unmute yourself or raise your hand.

Each person has 1-minute
RECOMMENDATION 4:
AFFORDABLE HEALTHY STORES

Join us in thinking how they will look like
### POLL QUESTIONS

**Should the City of Boston invest American Rescue Plan funds to have more affordable healthy corner stores in Boston?**
- Yes
- No

**Which services do you think an affordable healthy store should have?**
- Sell fresh fruits and vegetables
- Sell only healthy products
- Sell culturally appropriate food
- Sell affordable local products
- Health services check in
- Cooking classes
- Community events spaces

**Should we improve existing healthy stores or create new ones**
- Improve existing healthy stores
- Create/add new healthy stores
- Both
OPEN DISCUSSION

Please either unmute yourself or raise your hand.

Each person has 1-minute
In **ONE** word, what are we missing?

Please keep it short as we want everyone to have a chance to speak

Write in the chat or raise your hand if you want to speak

Each person has max. 1 min
OUR MEETING VISUAL NOTES
THANK YOU
If you have questions or would like to talk more about today’s topics, please contact us at food@boston.gov